

and was unable to record my vote for rollcall No. 868. Had I been present I would have voted: rollcall No. 868: "yes"—Jack F. Kemp Post Office Building.

CHEMICAL FACILITY ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 5, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 2868) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to extend, modify, and recodify the authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security to enhance security and protect against acts of terrorism against chemical facilities, and for other purposes:

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2869. I voted against the bill during committee consideration. Unfortunately, the bill before us today is even worse than the version reported out of the Homeland Security Committee.

This legislation gives the Secretary of Homeland Security the authority to require farms, manufacturing plants, timber companies, hospitals, and thousands of other facilities across the United States to change the way they do business. The Secretary will be able to dictate what chemicals are used, how they are used and how they are stored. The bill tries to cover this government take over of the private sector with terms like "inherently safer technologies" and "methods to reduce terrorists attack."

The Federal Government could impose mandates to adopt unproven technologies and chemical substitutions, but lacks the technical and personnel expertise to evaluate whether these alternatives are effective, productive, and safe across these sectors.

There are over 3,000 facilities in the U.S. that would be covered under this legislation that employ 50 or fewer people. According to experts, mandating inherently safer technologies, IST, could cost anywhere from thousands to hundreds of thousands of dollars. Companies in my district do not have excess funds to alter how they do business because some bureaucrat in D.C. thinks there is a better way to do it.

Another unprecedented measure in the bill is the establishment of a system allowing any person, even nonaffected persons, to file a lawsuit against the Secretary of Homeland Security if IST is not implemented. This bill might as well be called the Homeland Security Trial Lawyer Employment Act.

Citizen suits are not appropriate in a national security context and this would be the first time Congress would be authorizing such citizen suits in the national or homeland security arena.

The Department of Homeland Security has testified that these suits could result in the release of very sensitive security information through the legal discovery process that would be helpful to terrorists.

This legislation is misguided and interrupts actions on-going at DHS to evaluate and enhance security at chemical facilities. I urge a "no" vote.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996—the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Conference Report, 2010:

Requesting Member: Congressman PETER KING

Bill Number: H.R. 2996

Account: Environmental Protection Agency—STAG

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Nassau County

Address of Requesting Entity: 1550 Franklin Avenue, Mineola, NY 11501

Description of Request: \$300,000 will be used to complete the technical design report for the relocation of the Bay Park Sewer Treatment outfall from Reynolds Channel to the Atlantic Ocean.

110TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BRONX ZOO

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 110th anniversary of the Bronx Zoo, a milestone in the cultural history of New York City. The Bronx Zoo opened its doors on November 8, 1899, and is the largest metropolitan zoo in the country with approximately 4 million visitors annually and featuring 6,000 animals and 600 species.

The Bronx Zoo continues to win awards for its world class exhibits and is well known for creating naturalistic habitats. Chief among them is the Congo Gorilla Forest which is one of the zoo's most popular exhibits. Spanning more than 6½ acres, the exhibit's main attraction is the western lowland gorillas, making up the species largest breeding group in all of the Americas. The Gorilla Forest is the largest man made rainforest in the world. The rain forest simulation gives visitors the chance to experience the Congo as if they were there. Along with the lowland gorillas, the exhibit is home to white bearded de Brazza monkeys, okapis and red river hogs. Since the opening of the exhibit, it has had 7 million visitors. The exhibit fees go to help conservation efforts in Africa which have helped 18 National Parks in such countries as Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, and Gabon.

From the zoo grounds, hundreds of conservationists work every day hand-in-hand with more than 3,000 employees located in 65 developing countries around the world. The zoo's first conservation achievement was here in the United States of America, where, by 1905, uncontrolled hunting had reduced the great herds of bison to fewer than 1,000 animals. Theodore Roosevelt, along with William Hornaday, the Bronx Zoo's first director, were founding members of the American Bison Society, ABS, an organization formed at the

Bronx Zoo to preserve this icon of the American prairies. In 1907, the Bronx Zoo sent a group of zoo-born bison to Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Montana to help reestablish the species throughout the plains. Along with its broad conservation efforts, the Bronx Zoo's award winning exhibits and pioneering research has garnered world recognition.

In the Bronx, the zoo's impact is felt in yet another way. In addition to being a cultural staple and headquarters for an international conservation organization, it is an economic cornerstone in the Bronx. On average, the Bronx Zoo employs more than 750 full-time staff per year and is the largest employer of youth in the borough, providing employment opportunities, job skills training, and scholarship opportunities for more than 700 teenagers each year. Two years ago, the Bronx Zoo opened the first New York City public school focused on wildlife conservation. At the school, children can learn math, sciences, history, and arts by interacting with the zoo's animals and experts.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Bronx Zoo on its 110th anniversary and to applaud the institution for its efforts in leading the world in wildlife conservation as well as bringing joy to the millions of visitors who have walked through its gates.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, on November 6, 2009, I was unable to be present for all rollcall votes due to the tragic event at Fort Hood on November 5, 2009. I had to travel to Fort Hood in order to be briefed on the latest findings in the shootings investigation, and to determine what steps could be taken to help comfort the wounded and the families of those who lost their lives in the tragedy. If present, I would have voted accordingly on the following rollcall votes: Roll No. 865—"nay"; roll No. 866—"aye"; roll No. 67—"aye"; roll No. 868—"aye"; roll No. 869—"nay"; roll No. 870—"aye"; roll No. 871—"aye"; roll No. 872—"aye"; roll No. 873—"aye"; roll No. 874—"aye"; and roll No. 875—"nay."

COMMENDING THE RABUN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR HOSTING THE 11TH ANNUAL VETERAN'S APPRECIATION DINNER

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on December 23, 1776, just days before the Continental Army won a great victory at the Battle of Trenton, General George Washington asked aides to read passages from Thomas Paine's *The Crisis*. That great book, which lifted the spirits of the army from the darkest depths, famously begins, "These are the times that try men's souls: The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that